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BRIEF MENTION.

The executors of the distinguished Egyptologist, Professor GUSTAVUS SEYFFARTH, have published (New York, E. Steiger & Co.) *The Literary Life of Gustavus Seyffarth, an Autobiographical Sketch*, and *Gustav Seyffarth, eine biographische Skizze*, von KARL KNORTZ. Dr. Seyffarth was known to every scholar in the country, to many personally, to very many by correspondence. As to the merits of his long controversy with other Egyptologists, few are competent to pronounce; but no one can deny the pathetic interest of these records of a long life of scholarly endeavor and scholarly enthusiasm, to which the atmosphere of intelligent appreciation was here denied and there malignant.

Dr. J. H. HEINRICH SCHMIDT has brought to a close his elaborate work, *Synonymik der griechischen Sprache*, by the publication of the fourth volume (Leipzig, Teubner, 1886), with a register of words (pp. 689-722) and an index of passages (pp. 723-875) to all four volumes, but he has not succeeded in carrying out his own plans, as he frankly confesses, and we have only 208 families out of the 256 which he had expected to complete before taking his hand from a subject which, in the nature of things, can never be exhaustively treated. It is the first great effort to bring the vast field under tilth, and grateful recognition has not been lacking even on the part of those who are not kindly disposed towards the author's achievements in other directions, and many will admit that Schmidt's 'Synonymik' is an indispensable book who have little but reprobation for the 'Kunstformen.' But Dr. Schmidt looks upon his own philological work as a whole, and refuses the suffrages of those who do not accept all his teachings. Standing, as he does, outside of the philological guild, he has the advantages of a rich life, a wide experience, a free vision, with the drawbacks incident to such a position, especially in a land of tradition like Germany, where intellectual movements come mainly through university channels. It is the feeling of this comparative isolation that has given a strong personal tinge, not free from bitterness, to the author's vindication of his career prefixed to this volume. But the ample recognition that Dr. Schmidt has received from abroad seems to have not been without result in his own country, and it is to be hoped that the last stretches of his life, for which he has reserved some of his most important work, will be rich in the experience of well-rewarded toil. From a practical point of view we have reason to congratulate ourselves that Dr. Schmidt intends to put forth, in the course of 1887, a compact handbook of Greek and Latin Synonyms, which cannot fail to be of great service to those who have sufficient command of German to appreciate the points that are made. A translation into English would require special attainments, special gifts, and should not be undertaken lightly. A good knowledge of English and German synonyms is a prerequisite, and as the ordinary manuals

often leave one in the lurch, the translator must have a delicate perception of the proprieties of English speech, which can only be gained by long familiarity with the best literature and by actual artistic handling of the language. As to the dangers that environ the translator, one illustration may suffice, and that one is drawn from Dr. Schmidt himself. On Pind. O 5, 12 I had said "canals can be stately" (*σεμνοί*). To this Dr. Schmidt objects, and remarks (p. 642): "Stattlich und *σεμνός* ist doch etwas ganz verschiedenes." But the same thing might be said of "stattlich" and "stately." To be sure, Passow translates *σεμνός* "stattlich," and Dr. Schmidt may quarrel with him on the German side; but "stattlich" is often used where "stately" would be inappropriate, and it may be mentioned as a curiosity that in the long list of equivalents to "stattlich" given by Hilpert "stately" does not occur once. If *ἀχεροί* means "streams," as Dr. Schmidt contends, and not "canals," then *σεμνούς* in Pindar's *σεμνοὺς ὀχετούς* must be taken as in Eur. I. T. 401: *ρέυματα σεμνὰ Δίρκας*, and Troad. 206: *τῶν σεμνὰν οὐδάτων*, with distinct recognition of the *σέβω* element such as we find in all the Aischylean passages. If *ἀχετούς* there means "canals," I cannot help thinking that "stately" is not bad, as it would not be bad in Hel. 431: *πύλας σεμνὰς ἀνδρος ὀλβίου*. In Dem. 3, 26: *οἰκίαν σεμνοτέραν* might fairly well be translated "a more stately house," and Tennyson's "stately ships" by *σεμναὶ νῆσες*. This, then, by way of illustrating the extreme difficulty of the subject, a difficulty which Dr. Schmidt cheerfully acknowledges, a difficulty on which he has brought to bear wide reading, keen sympathy, and that lively fancy without which work in this field is hopeless. B. L. G.

Jahresbericht über die Erscheinungen auf dem Gebiete der germanischen Philologie. Herausgegeben von der Gesellschaft für deutsche Philologie in Berlin. Siebenter Jahrgang, 1885.

The second part of this valuable bibliography is just received, completing the volume. The section on English contains 285 titles, and is under the direction of D. J. Koch, Berlin. It may be cheerfully commended to students of Germanic philology, who will find it a useful summary of the current literature.

JAMES M. GARNETT.